



State of South Carolina
Office of The Lieutenant Governor

André Bauer
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**Lt. Governor Accepts Award from South
Carolina Adult Day Services Association**

(Cayce, S.C.-) Adult day services play a critical role in the lives of thousands of South Carolina families, according to Lt. Governor André Bauer, and he pledged Friday to help a state association that represents the providers of those services carry that message to the State House in Columbia.

"I want you to know that you are providing an invaluable service, and everywhere I go the families that I talk to tell me how much they appreciate what you do," Bauer told the membership of the South Carolina Adult Day Services Association. "We want to do everything we can to allow seniors to stay in their homes with dignity and a good quality of life."

The group held their annual meeting December 2 at HopeBridge Adult Day Services Center in Cayce, just across the Congaree River from the state capital. The agenda included planning a public information campaign for the upcoming legislative session and presenting Lt. Governor Bauer with their "Wings of Caring" award for 2005. According to SCADSA President Cindy Goldin, the Wings of Caring award was established to recognize a political leader who has made an outstanding difference for adult day care in South Carolina.

"Lt. Governor Bauer has been a powerful advocate for issues that affect elderly South Carolinians and their families," said Goldin. "SCADSA wanted to recognize him for that commitment."

SCADSA works to promote and enhance adult day care services in South Carolina. It's estimated that more than 400,000 people in South Carolina regularly provide care or assistance to an elderly or otherwise disabled relative or loved one. Access to quality adult day services can be a critical link in the chain of support for those caregivers.

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Bauer used his acceptance speech to encourage the SCADSA membership to reach out to the members of the General Assembly to help educate them on the issues that are important to South Carolina's aging population and their families. Bauer described his 17 months as the head of the state's aging programs as a process of "learning as I go," and told the group that policy makers in Columbia need to hear directly from the people with real world knowledge of aging issues in order to make good policy decisions.

"We rely on the knowledge and expertise of groups like yours to be able to make good decisions," said Bauer.

Reaction from the SCADSA board members was enthusiastic.

"He gets it," said SCADSA past-President Barbara Wright. "We were just saying at our table that the education of our legislators has to be an ongoing priority. "You (Bauer) get it, and we thank you for that."

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